

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
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Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 12.3 WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF THE SOURCE
CODE “R” FOR “RANCHED” SPECIMENS

1. This document was prepared by the United States of America.

Introduction

2. Resolution Conf. 12.3, Section I, paragraph e) identifies codes that Parties use on permits and certificates when describing the source of specimens. One of these codes, “R”, is defined only as “specimens originating from a ranching operation.” No further description of what constitutes a ranching operation or reference to any resolution is given. This has created problems for Parties understanding when to use this source code.
3. The term “ranching” is not found in the text of the Convention and is currently defined only in Resolution Conf. 11.16, “Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II.”
4. Under Resolution Conf. 11.16, ranching is defined as “the rearing in a controlled environment of specimens taken from the wild” when populations of Appendix-I species are transferred to Appendix II based on the management practices being utilized to allow sustainable harvest of that population. The Resolution provides a number of general criteria that the ranching program must satisfy. The ranching definition was not intended to apply to specimens of other populations that do not meet the criteria of Resolution Conf. 11.16.
5. According to data available to the United States, many species, including specimens of *Pandinus* spp. (Emperor scorpion), *Ornithoptera* spp. (birdwing butterfly), *Tridacna* spp. (giant clam), *Stombus gigas* (Queen conch), *Python* spp. (pythons), *Varanus* spp. (monitors), *Furcifer* spp. (chameleons), *Iguana* spp. (iguanas), and *Caiman crocodilus* (caimans), are being traded under source code “R” that do not meet the criteria established in Resolution Conf. 11.16. While we are not questioning whether the trade in these specimens is detrimental to the species, the United States does not believe that use of source code “R” for these specimens is appropriate since the only definition under CITES is what appears in Resolution Conf. 11.16.

Recommendation

6. Resolution Conf. 12.3 be amended to define the source code “R” to apply only where the specimen was obtained from a ranching operation that meets the criteria established in Resolution Conf. 11.16.
7. The Annex that follows contains a draft revision to Section I, paragraph e), of Resolution Conf. 12.3 to reflect the change proposed above.

DRAFT REVISION OF RESOLUTION CONF. 12.3

Permits and certificates

Proposed new text is underlined

The United States proposes the following amendment to the source code “R,” in Section I, paragraph e), in the operative part of Resolution Conf. 12.3 to read:

- R** Specimens originating from a ranching operation in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.16